

## Minfos Nov record

SYMBION has reported that it broke its previous record for new installations of Minfos software last month.

Minfos mgr Matthew Lalor, who headed up the Minfos recruitment drive, said forward projections for installations of the software are also strong, claiming that "customers are recognising the unique features Minfos offers their business and are voting with their feet".

He forecast strong growth well into next year, in the lead-up to what he described as "very exciting new advances" in the software under development.

Symbion Pharmacy gm Patrick Davies said: "Our ongoing investment in technology for our customers continues to be a key part of our strategy.

"We expect the development of Minfos to make a big impact in the marketplace," he added.

More info [www.minfos.com.au](http://www.minfos.com.au).

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## Champix PBS approval

MORE ammunition has been added to the stop-smoking arsenal today, with confirmation that Pfizer's Champix (varenicline tartrate) has finally been approved for PBS reimbursement.

The move has been mooted for some time, but was understood to have been delayed by the recent federal election because cabinet approval was required.

Champix is a prescription-only oral tablet which doesn't contain nicotine, and a 12-week course of therapy is recommended.

During the first week users phase in an increasing dose while

## Qld flouridation

THE Pharmacy Guild of Australia says a decision by the Qld govt to mandate water flouridation across the state follows eight years of lobbying on the issue.

The Guild has advised pharmacists to be aware that the implementation of flouridation involves work on 130 plants across the state, with the first not occurring until the end of 2008.

Guild members will be provided with the schedule for the program, once enabling legislation has been passed by Qld parliament, so they can adjust stock levels of fluoride products.

"In the meantime, it is important that Queensland pharmacists continue to not only make available fluoride products, but also educate consumers on the staged plant conversion schedule," the Guild said.

## BMS restructure

BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB has announced a major global restructuring, which will see the closure of more than half its factories by 2010.

Staff will be cut by 10% in the "productivity transformation initiative" which is forecast to save US\$1.5b.

Moves foreshadowed also include reducing the number of brands in the BMS 'mature products portfolio' by 60% between 2007 and 2011.

Analysts praised the plans, which come in the lead-up to the 2011 expiry of the patent on BMS' popular drug Plavix.

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## DISPENSARY CORNER

MAYBE it was too much spinach!

Speculation is rife after doctors in China failed to explain why a man's sweat has turned green.

Since mid November, 52 year old Cheng Shunghuo's sweat has been a bright, lime green.

"I noticed that my underwear and bed sheets were all green, and even the water in the shower," he told the *Chutian Metropolis News*.

Cheng went to hospital to get the problem checked out, but even after a serious scrub down he took only 10 min to turn a white gauze on his armpit green.

Blood tests revealed no anomalies, and doctors admit they're bamboozled.

MEDICAL researchers in Israel say they believe stinginess could have a genetic component.

A study at Hebrew University reported on 203 participants who had provided DNA samples, each given a choice of keeping \$10 or giving it away.

The scientists found that those who had a variant of a gene called AVPR1a gave away almost half as much more money on average than those without the variant, according to an ABC report.

KANGAROO farts could provide a solution to global warming.

That's the hypothesis of Qld state govt scientists, who hope to isolate bacteria in the guts of kangaroos, in a bid to modify the alimentary tracts of cattle to produce similar green-friendly flatulence to that of marsupials.

Apparently 14% of greenhouse gas emissions in Australia come from livestock, and it's worse in NZ where 50% is due to "enteric methane from cattle and sheep".

continuing to smoke, leading up to their 'quit date' and then they continue on the maintenance regimen of 1mg twice daily for the rest of the treatment.

Patients taking Champix will also have access to a free online support program called *My Time To Quit* which aims to help with the psychological and behavioural aspects of quitting.

Champix targets nicotine receptors in the brain to reduce withdrawal symptoms as well as satisfaction from smoking.

## New anti-ageing supplement

BLACKMORES has launched a new skin care product which it says is clinically proven to reduce fine lines and wrinkles as well as tighten pores.

Dubbed *Radiance*, it's an antioxidant-rich capsule "to provide 24 hour internal anti-ageing nourishment for the deeper layers of your skin".

The product will be available in pharmacies and health food stores with RRP \$64.95.

## Garvan type 2 move

THE Garvan Institute of Medical Research today announced the GlaxoSmithKline Don Chisholm Fellowship, which aims to find a cure for Type 2 diabetes.

It's named after world-renowned diabetes and obesity researcher Professor Don Chisholm, who was head of Garvan's diabetes program for more than 2 decades.

GSK is funding the Fellowship for two years "as part of its commitment to diabetes research, prevention and cure".

## US Avastin denial

A PANEL of the US Food and Drug Administration has recommended that Avastin, manufactured by Roche subsidiary Genentech, shouldn't be approved for the treatment of women with breast cancer.

Officials decided that Genentech had "failed to establish a favourable balance of risks and benefits" for the use of the drug for breast cancer.

Avastin is currently approved in the USA for treating lung and colon cancer.

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